



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Scott McEwan

Weird Queer Freaky Xmas

December 3 - January 8, 2008



Commentary by Julie Oakes

Scott McEwan

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Telephone/Facsimile: 416-465-7352 Email: info@headbonesgallery.com
Director: Richard Fogarty
www.headbonesgallery.com

Scott McEwan

Julie Oakes

When two circles are eccentric, they don't share the same center although they do share the same space. Scott McEwan's work is within the circle of art - accomplished, current, informed and ardent; and yet it is slightly off center. It is this skew that catches, engages and provokes interest. The personal circle, Scott's circle, that is inhabiting the greater art circle, is centered. In fact it is holistic and the art work contains signifiers of a well rounded experience. The work is about wrestling, queer culture, pop iconography and graphic imagery. It tells us a story. Scott is one of the main characters.

The paintings on paper and canvas tell it all. He's an art teacher, a wrestler and he's gay. He has asthma. He hangs out with a colorful, cross-dressing crowd. He has brilliant taste and a fine hand. He is committed to his art practice and currently has a habit of drawing black ink portraits, varying in size. The smallest are drawn on the cards given out in gay bars to pass on telephone numbers with the hope of future assignations. There are also larger than life size formats, often committed to paper from memory, of all of the men that he meets. His world is lined with men, grappling and cavorting in masculine demonstrations of fitness and strength. The wrestlers, dressed like super-heroes exist in an atmosphere of clouds, flames and bubbles where every element is outlined in black - a cartoon and candy-colored depiction of a hairy, sweating, sensuous sport.

There are pansies throughout - that antiquated derogatory term once used for homosexual men. Yet like the resilience of the gay culture, Scott too has reclaimed, with punchy pride, the slur and worn it on his heart sleeve. 'Queer' at one time described a mentally unbalanced, deranged or qualmish individual and then extended into a slang derivation for 'homosexual'. The homosexual community adopted the term and, with fey bravado, ran with it. This is where Scott McEwan shines. He shies away from nothing. He allows the combination of brash colors, whimsical lyricism and an enchanted oeuvre free-range in the world of wrestling. Starting with a random word from the lingo of the ring; he builds on it visually, inserting his characters into a turbulent, active world where excretions spurt high and explosions, just like in the comics, are a matter of course with no more significance in the echelon of masculine attributes than the veined petals of a pansy.

His skew is clearly stated, his circle is intact and he's spinning but not out of control. Like a dervish, he twirls and as the sequins catch flashes of ambient light, he sparkles.



Ending
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Hope Spot
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Pop
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Left Over Right
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Lock
acrylic on watercolour paper, 30 x 20 inches
2007



Shine
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Backslide
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Daylight
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007



Animate
acrylic on watercolour paper, 20 x 30 inches
2007

Scott McEwan

Born London, Ontario, Canada, 1970

Education

- 1997 M.F.A. in Visual Arts (Painting and Drawing), York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1996 Independent Study in Public and Site Specific Art, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1995 French as a Second Language, The University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- 1995 B.Ed in Junior/Intermediate Divisions (Visual Arts Major), The University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
- 1993 B.F.A. in Visual Arts, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

Solo Exhibitions

- 2007 Business, Homo Social East, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Equipment Homo Social East, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Max Attitude vs Skinny Divine Paul Petro Multiples, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Kayfabe, The Waterbury, NEMAA, Minneapolis, USA
- 2005 Pile-Drive-A-Thon, T.A.A.F.I, Toronto, Canada
- 2003 Saturday Venerations, Studio Deluxe, Toronto, Canada
- 2002 Assumption, Zsa Zsa Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2001 Reviresco, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1999 Admissions, Fab National Magazine, Toronto, Canada
- 1998 Recent Work, Medicine Hat College Gallery, Medicine Hat, Canada
- 1998 Accumulative Calendars, Red Head Gallery Showcase, Red Head Gallery, Toronto
- 1997 Orbital Desires, The I.D.A. Gallery, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1993 Thesis Exhibition, The Staging Building, The University of Western Ontario, London,

Group Exhibitions

- 2007 Snap!07, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Hello Dolly, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Jingle, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Canada
- 2006 Pontiac - Eye magazine, The Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Poetry/Projection Project, LIFT, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Pot Modern, Zsa Zsa Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 Panorama, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 X-Mas Show, Art Metropole, Toronto, Canada

2004 Bijoux, Zsa Zsa Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2004 Beaver Feaver, Sis Boom Bah, Toronto, Canada
2004 Flash, Edward Day Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2004 Foxy Boxing, YYZ Artist Outlet, Toronto, Canada
2004 Art and Cocktails, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 X Show, The Burston Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 Lesbian, Gay, Bi Youth Line Fundraiser, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada
2003 Gifts by Artists, Art Metropole, Toronto, Canada
2003 St. Swithun Poster Project, Toronto, Canada
2003 YYZine, YYZ Artist Outlet, Toronto, Canada
2003 Micheal Jackson Project, Zsa Zsa Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 C Magazine Fundraiser, Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 Love at First Sight, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2003 Drawing Attention, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2002 Tongue in Chic, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2001 Mini-Me, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2001 Overtime, Workplace, Toronto, Canada
2001 No Mercy - The Artworld Wrestling Federation, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada
2001 Spring Break, Zsa Zsa Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2001 Bleu, Noir et Rouge, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2001 Mini-Me, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2000 Last Century Modern, Spin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1998 Artbox 98, The Nadal Management Centre, Toronto, Canada
1997 Juried Exhibition, Glenhyrst - Art Gallery of Brandt, Brantford, Canada
1997 Open Juried Exhibition, The Library Gallery, Cambridge, Canada
1997 Proclaimed, The London Regional Art and Historical Museum, London, Canada
1997 Artbox 97 - Exhibition Stock Exchange, Toronto, Canada
1996 M.F.A. Programme Exhibition, I.D.A. Gallery, York University, Toronto, Canada
1996 Gay Sensibilities, Forest City Gallery, London, Canada
1995 M.F.A. Programme Exhibition, I.D.A. Gallery, York University, Toronto, Canada
1994 Reinscribing the Figure, London Regional Art and Historical Museum, London, Canada
1994 Between Cultures Arts Dialogue, Forest City Gallery, London, Canada
1993 6th Annual Juried Exhibition, Gibson Gallery, London, Canada
1993 Palimpsest, McIntosh Gallery, London, Canada
1992 501, Gallery Without Walls, Toronto, Canada

- 1992 Performance Festival, Forest City Gallery, London, Canada
- 1991 Sexual Politics, Hillary Gallery, The University of Western Ontario, London, Canada
- 1991 Plexus, Hillary Gallery, The University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

Awards/Scholarships

- 1997 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, The Ontario Ministry of Education and Training
- 1996 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, The Ontario Ministry of Education and Training
- 1996 York University Mural Purchase Award, York University Student Centre Corporation
- 1995 York University Entrance Scholarship, Faculty of Graduate Studies, York University
- 1993 In-Course Scholarship, The University of Western Ontario
- 1993 Rhodes Scholarship Nominee, Faculty of Arts, The University of Western Ontario
- 1992 Honours Studio Arts Scholarship, Department of Visual Arts,
The University of Western Ontario
- 1991 Plexus Juried Exhibition Award Winner, Hillary Gallery, Department of Visual Arts,
University of Western Ontario

Guest Lectures and Workshops

- 2007 Gimmick, Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto, Canada
- 1999 Visual Arts for Preschoolers, The Family Development Centre, Toronto, Canada
- 1999 Visual Arts and HIV Positive Living, The Family Development Centre, Toronto, Canada
- 1998 Visual Art in Early Childhood Education, Medicine Hat College Medicine Hat, Canada
- 1998 Visiting Artist, Second Year Art and Design Theory, Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat, AB
- 1997 Guest Instructor, Atkinson College, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1996 The Power of the Sublime and AIDS Activism, York University Toronto, Canada
- 1996 Visiting Artist, 3rd Year Drawing, Atkinson College, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1995 Visiting Artist, 3rd Year Drawing, Atkinson College, York University, Toronto, Canada
- 1995 Portfolio Presentation, Exhibition Proposals and Grant Applications, Canterbury School
of Fine Arts, The Ottawa Board of Education, Ottawa, Canada
- 1995 In Search of the Poet - A New Vision for the Arts in Postmodern
Education, The National Gallery of Canada and the Eastern Ontario Regional Arts
Advisory Committee, Ottawa, Canada
- 1995 Papermaking, Visual Arts Education Workshop, The University of Ottawa, Ottawa
- 1994 Arts Dialogue Between Cultures, The Forest City Gallery, London, Canada
- 1994 The Photographic Practice of Evergon and Painting, The University of Western Ontario,
London, Canada

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